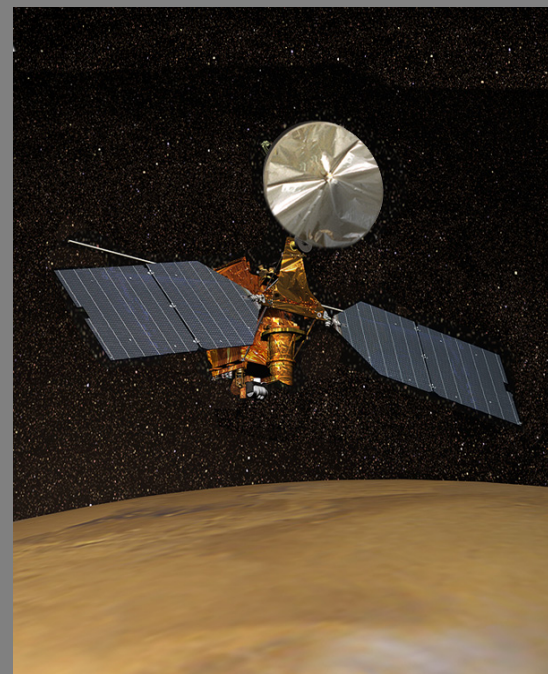


# Risk Management on MRO

*Phillip Barela, MRO Mission Assurance Manager*  
 &  
*James Graf, MRO Project Manager*



*December 8, 2005*



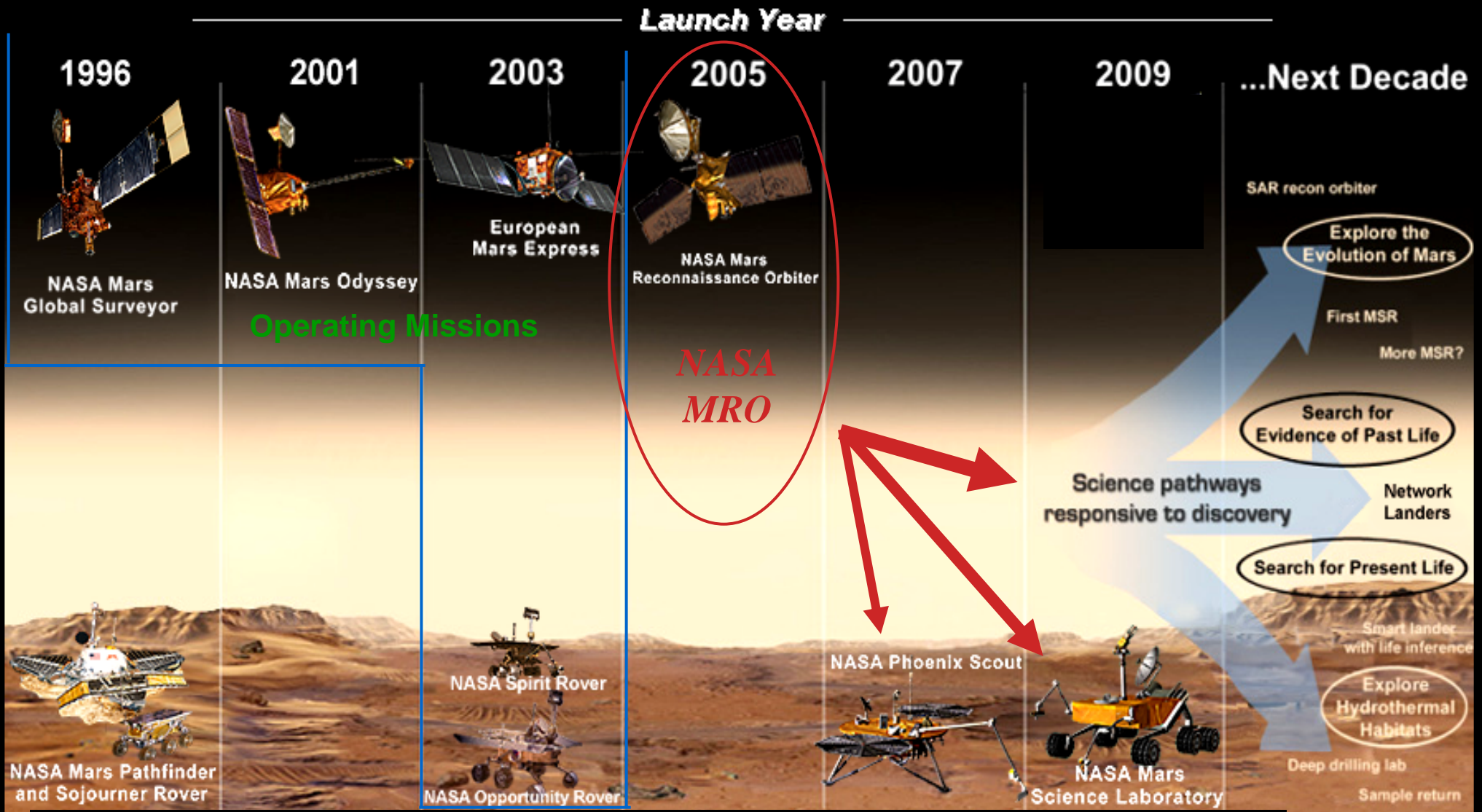
# *Outline*

*NASA RMC VII*

*Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter*

- MRO mission overview
- Key Challenges
- MRO RM Case Study
- Lessons Learned

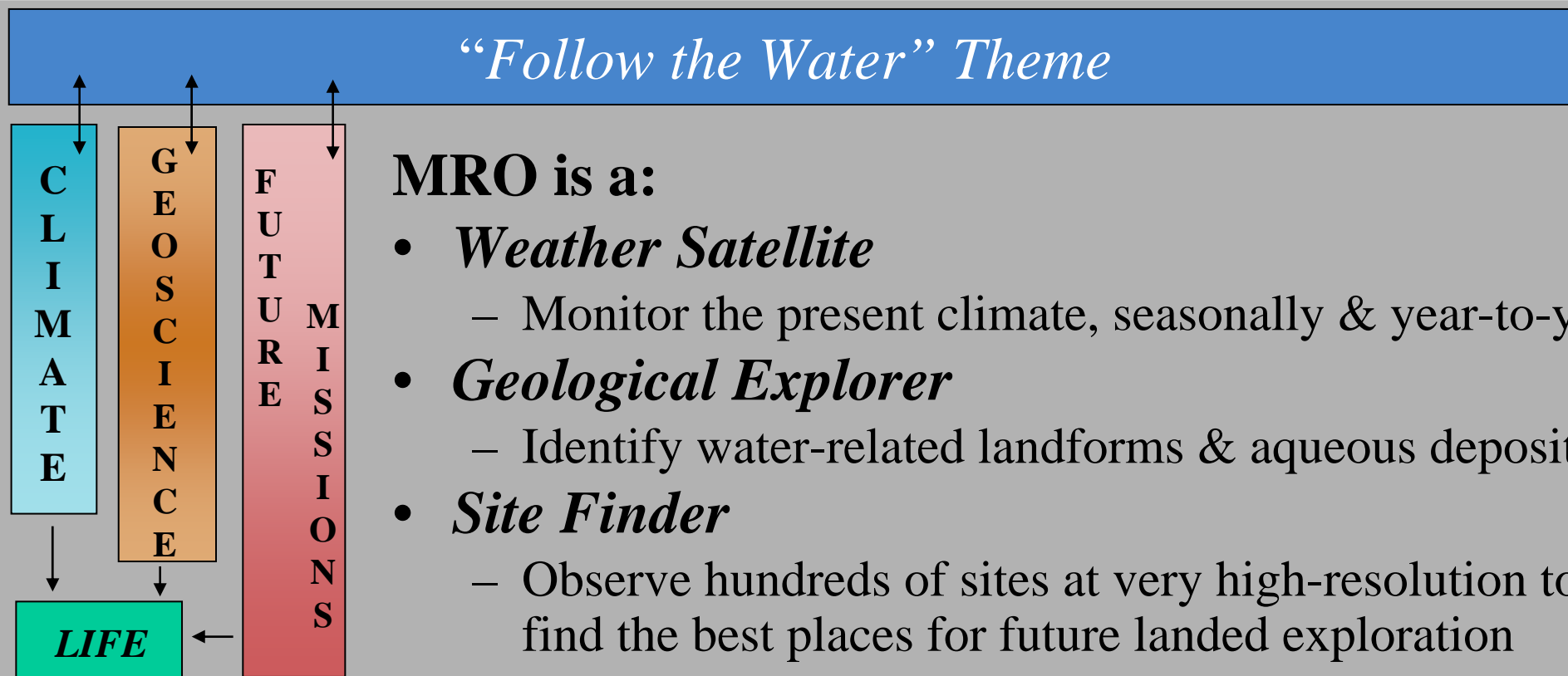
# Robotic Mars Exploration



# MRO Objectives

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Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter



**MRO is a:**

- *Weather Satellite*
  - Monitor the present climate, seasonally & year-to-year
- *Geological Explorer*
  - Identify water-related landforms & aqueous deposits
- *Site Finder*
  - Observe hundreds of sites at very high-resolution to find the best places for future landed exploration
- *Communications Satellite*
  - Provide relay for Phoenix (2008) & MSL (2010)
- *Technology Pathfinder*
  - Demonstrate optical navigation and use of new telecom frequencies (Ka-band) for future missions





# *MRO Flight System Description*

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Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter



Launch mass: 2180 kg

Size: 14 m solar array tip to tip  
and 7 m high

Array power: 6 kW (BOL/1 AU)

Maximum data rate: 5.6Mb/s

Other engineering attributes:

3 m HGA/100W TWTA

Monoprop propulsion: 1710 m/s

100 N-m-s wheels

Rolls to +/-30 deg.

Payload

6 science instruments

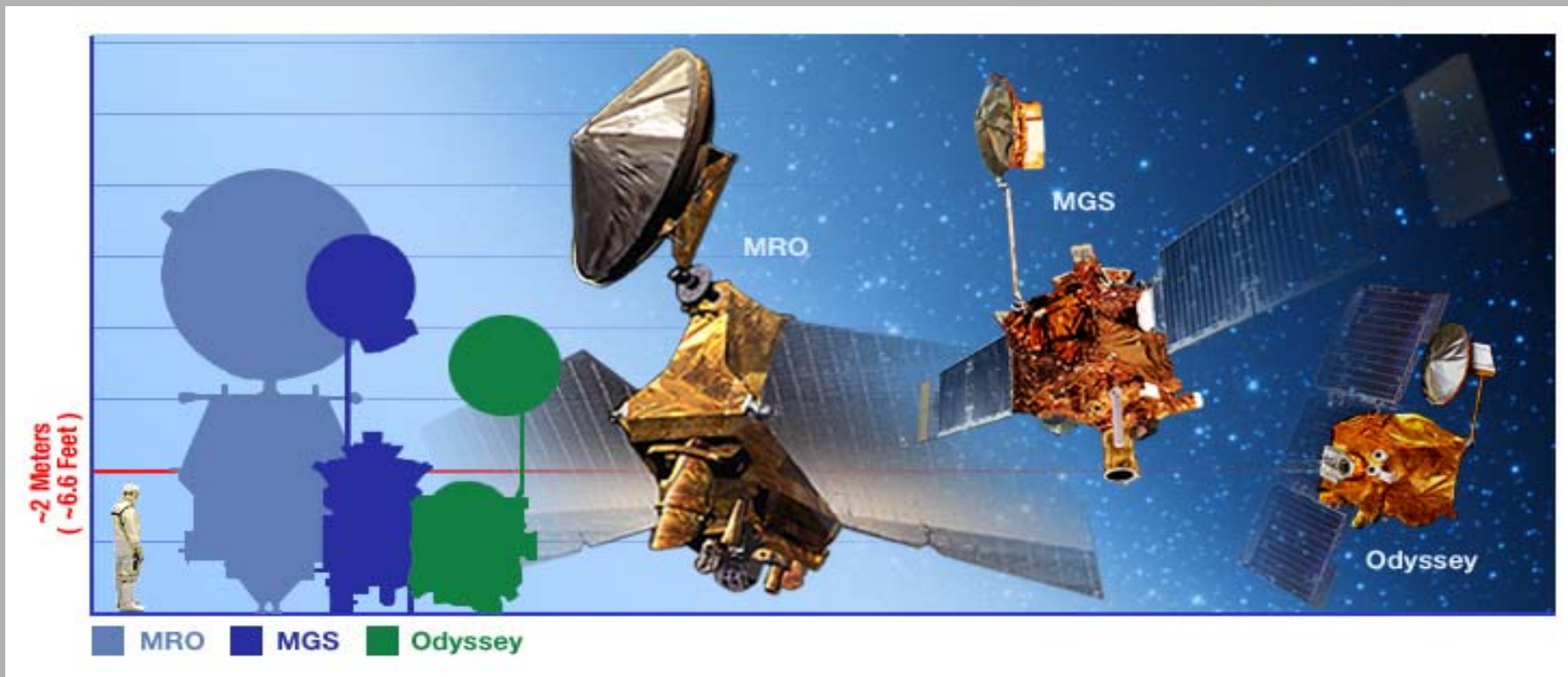
3 engineering payloads

2 non inst. investigations

# Recent Mars Missions Comparison

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Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter



<i>Item</i>	<i>MRO</i>	<i>MGS</i>	<i>Odyssey</i>
Launch Year	2005	1996	2001
S/C Wet Mass (kg)	2180	1055	733
Science Orbit (km)	255X320	400	400
Ground Sampling (m)	0.3	1.5	18
Data volume (Gb/sol)	20-90 *	0.7	1

# Data Return Comparison

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Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter

Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) plans to return over 3 times as much data as five missions put together.





NASA RMC VII

## Launch

Aug 2005

## Interplanetary Cruise

Aug 2005 - Mar 2006

## Approach and Orbit Insertion

Mar 2006

Capture Orbit ---

Period: 35 hrs

Asc Node: 8:30 pm LMST

## Aerobraking

Mar-Nov 2006

## Primary Science/Relay

Dec 2006 - Dec 2010

Primary Science/Relay Orbit ---

Period: 112 min

Hp: 255 km Ha: 320 km, Frozen

Ascending Node: 3:00 pm LMST (Sun-Sync)

Science Data  
Acquisition/Return



# *Project Status*

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Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter

- Launched on the August 12, 2005 onboard an Atlas V 401.
- Conducted two TCM and numerous engineering and Instrument calibrations
- Performance to-date has been nearly flawless



# *Key Challenges - 1*

*NASA RMC VII*

*Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter*

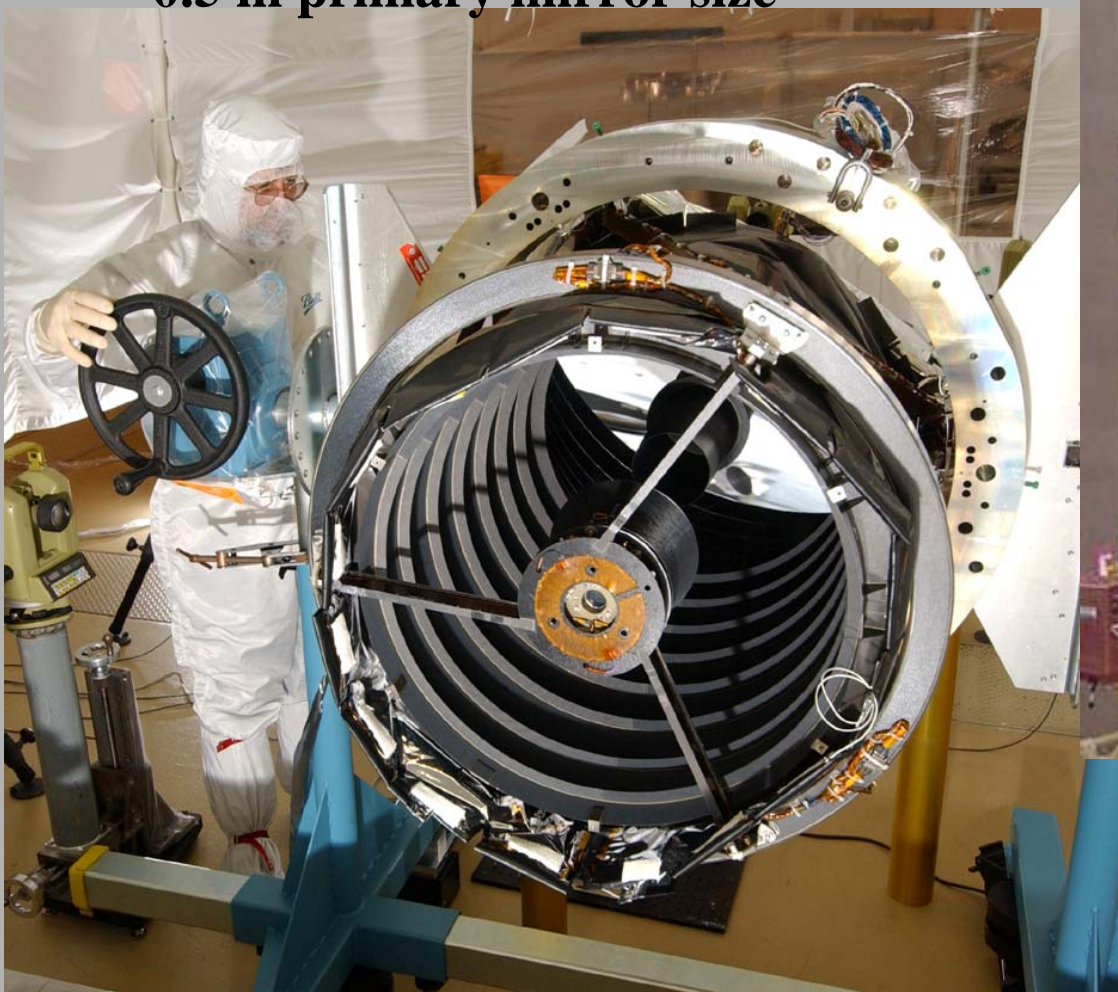
- **MRO was one of the 1st JPL project to be implemented following the Mars '98 failures**
- **Following the '98 failures, JPL overhauled the way in which projects are implemented, reviewed and monitored by mangement**
  - Led to the JPL Design Principles and JPL Flight Project Practices
  - Formal reviews for: Risk, TL YF, Peer
  - Systems Engineering much more engaged in project audits
  - Audits for all the above
- **MRO was the 1st major project to put these new requirements into our contracts for the spacecraft and instruments**

## Key Challenges - 2

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Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter

- **HiRISE - Resolves 1m objects**
  - 63 Kg
  - 16 different thermal zones
  - 0.5 m primary mirror size
  - 14 CCDs



### Key Risks:

1. CCD Alignment
2. Parts Reliability
3. Contamination



## Key Challenges - 3

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Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter

102015-007D-003



### Key Risks:

1. Not enough energy
2. Material fatigue
3. Mechanism failure

- **SHARAD -Ground Penetrating Radar -**

- Looking for ice & water
- Deployable antenna based upon the MARSIS design
- Continual development problems with this “heritage” development
- ITAR limitations



## Key Challenges - 4

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Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter

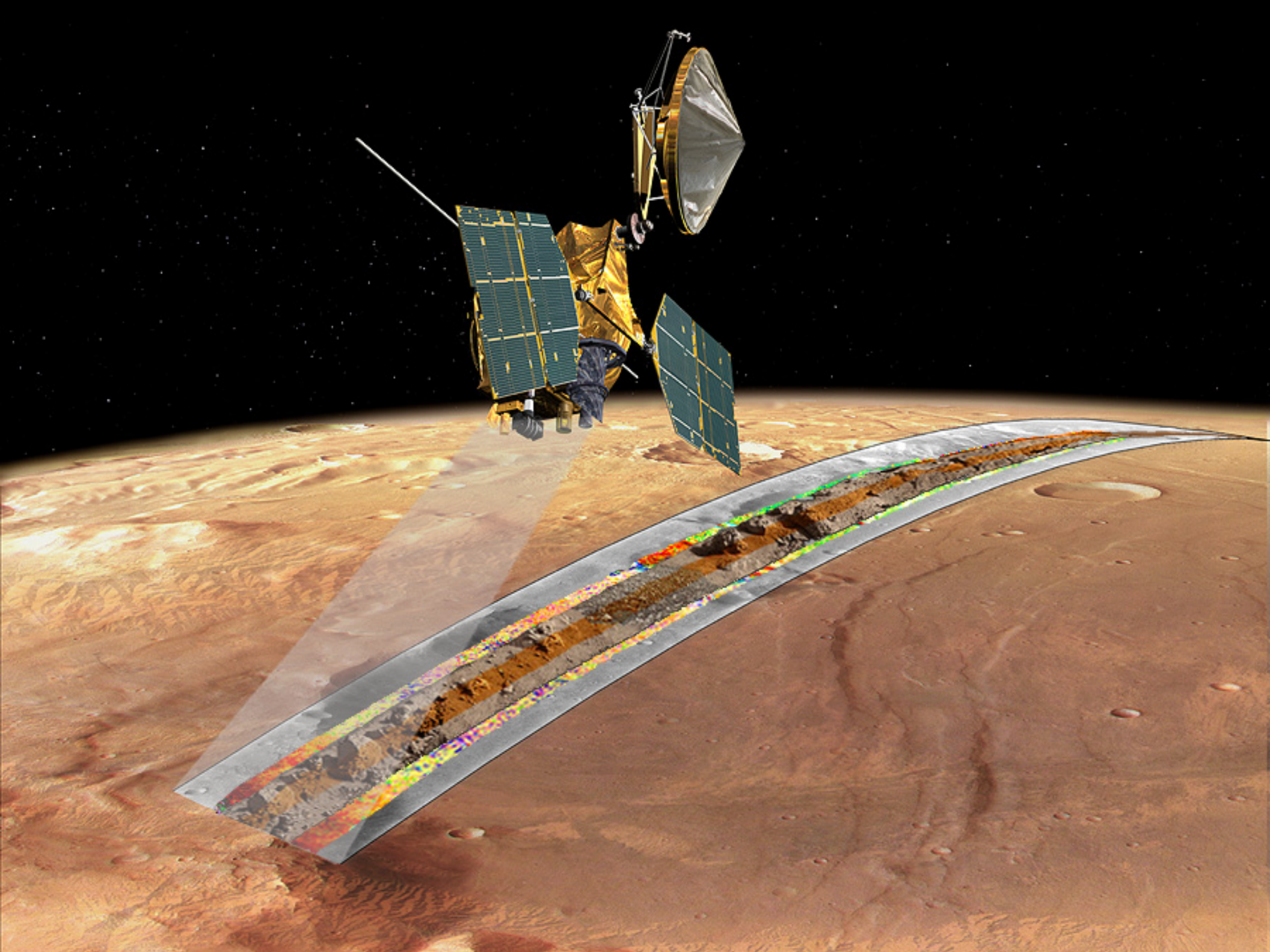
- CRISM - Spectrometer for analyzing surface composition
  - 34 Kg
  - Hyperspectral imager
  - Global survey mode followed by higher resolution of select locations

### Key Risks:

1. Cryo Cooler Load/Lifetime
2. Hybrid Power Supply Reliability
3. Contamination









# *Risk Mangement = Effective Communications*

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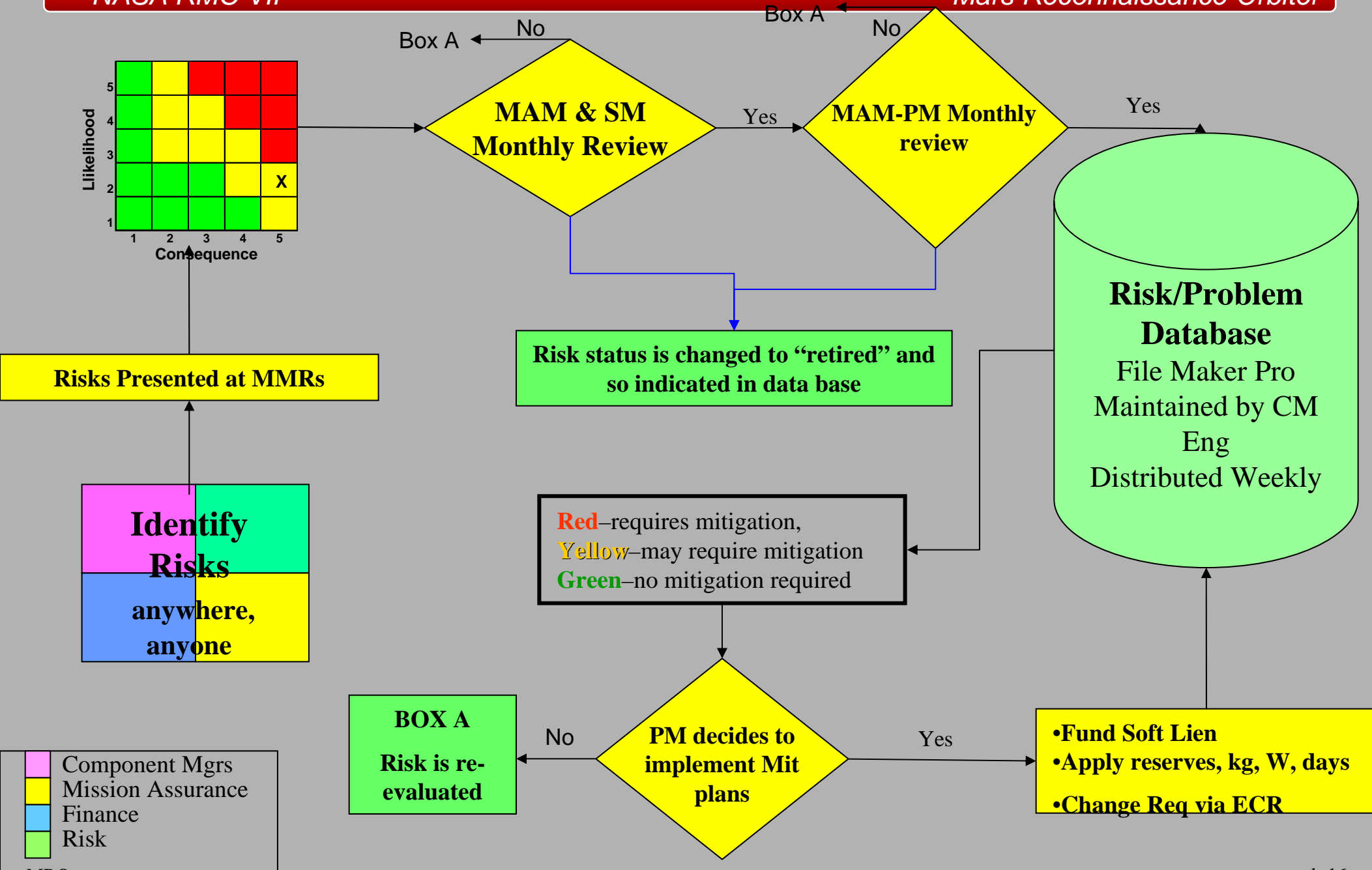
Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter

*Project team members, including  
management, discussing threats  
and mitigation strategies on a  
regular basis and taking ACTION*

# MRO Risk Management Process

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# Variety of Risk Definitions

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Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter

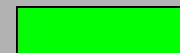
## PROBLEM REPORTS (PFRs)

Failure Effect Rating (Ignoring Redundancy)		Failure Cause/Corrective Action Rating	
Negligible	1	1	Known cause/Certainty in corrective action. No residual risk.
Significant	2	2	Unknown cause/Certainty in corrective action. No residual risk.
Major	3	3	Known cause/Uncertainty in corrective action. Some residual risk.
		4	Unknown cause/Uncertainty in corrective action. Some residual risk.

Red Flag Problem/Failure Reports  
Project Manager Approval Required

## Waivers

Low



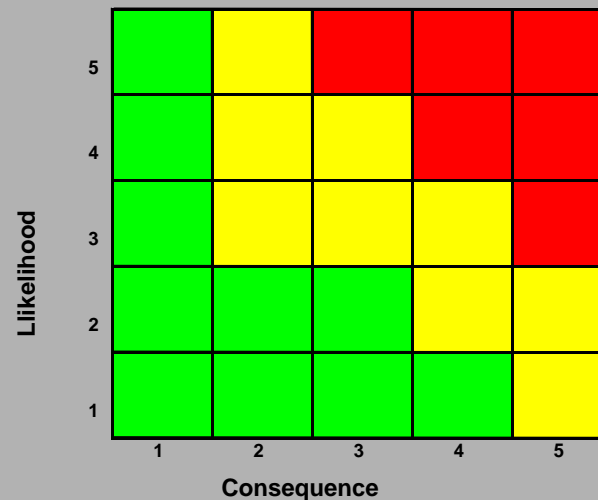
Medium



High



## Formal Risk Management



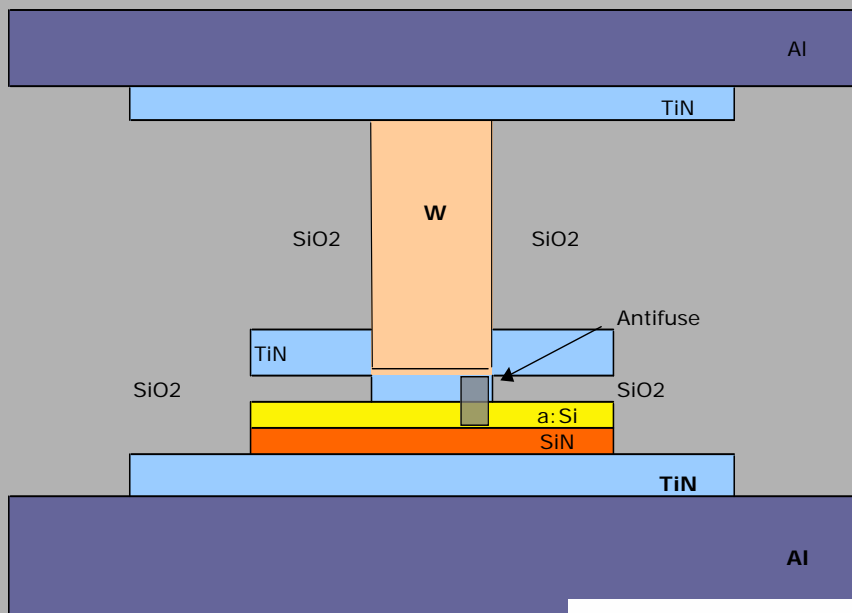


# MRO FPGA Risk - Case Study

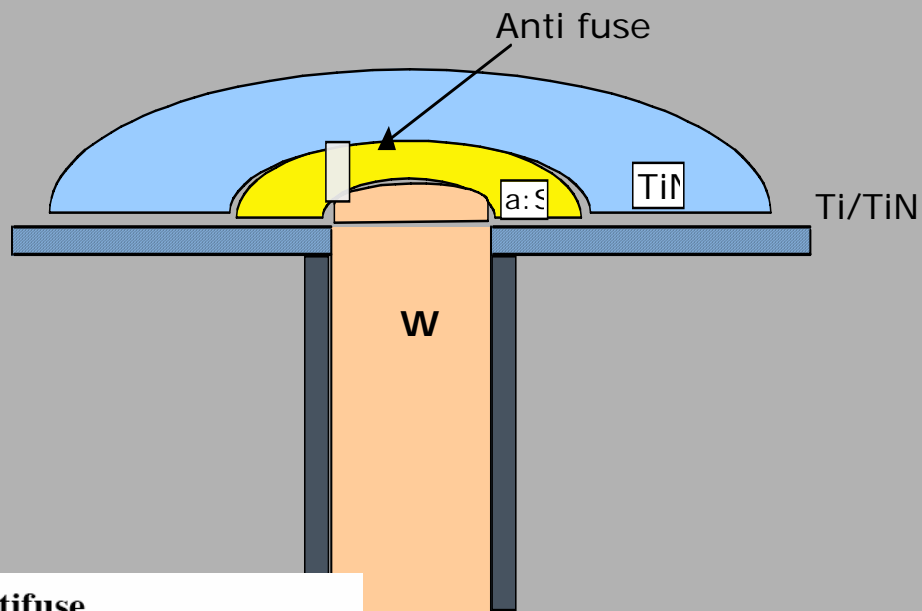
NASA RMC VII

Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter

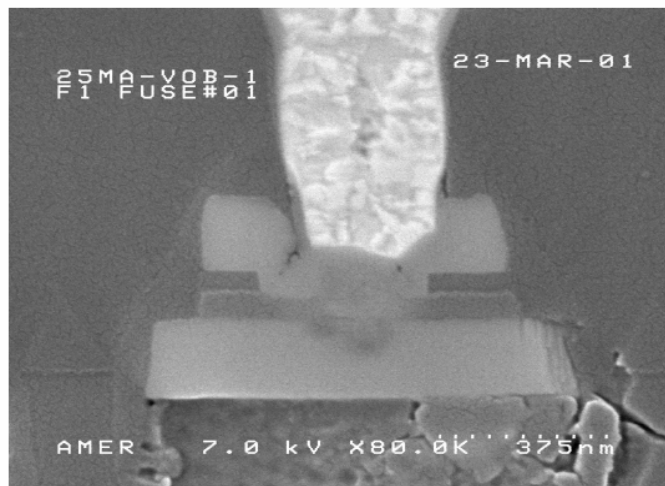
Baseline



New Foundry



Programmed Antifuse



## Decision Timeline

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Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter

MRO determines that FPGA Post Programming Tri-Temperature Testing will be performed but not burn-in

MRO has 1st "Peer Review" to address its FPGA usage and V&V approach

Mfgr. Introduces New & New/Modified

Mfgr. Introduces New Foundry

MRO has 2nd Peer Review to address its FPGA usage

MRO procures additional Baseline parts & New Foundry parts

**MRO has to make a decision!**

**8/05 LAUNCH!**

*100 FPGAs on MRO*

*-Across all subsystems & Instruments*

*-Almost all through box level qual*

## MRO Baseline

- Infant mortals or long term concerns
- Fall-out during ATLO
- How to accelerate defects
- Test design too stressful

## New Algorithm

- Independent Verification
- Pin-hole defects exist
- How to accelerate defects
- Will testing stop on this algorithm due to new release
- Test design too stressful

What is a “High Risk”  
Design or Application?

## New/Modified Algorithm

?

## New Foundry

- Tested to same standards as Baseline
- Drop in replacement
- Other problems
- Algorithm
- When available



## *Moral to the Story*

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Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter

- Risk Management decisions need expert technical judgment
- Mitigation plans [for critical risks] need to be very flexible with key decision points identified
  - You are dealing with the unknown...
  - Resources limit your mitigations
- Projects can't jump on the "band wagon" to solve their problems

# *What has worked for MRO:*

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Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter

- Office Managers “approving” risks in their areas and owning them
- Review boards “reasonably” pushing on the project to improve its risk management process
- Near 1 FTE dedicated support for RM
- Mitigation plans & strategies for all Red & Yellow risks
- Integrated risk lists with outside suppliers
- Peer Reviews!
- MRO was ready for the launch readiness reviews - constantly poking at project risks

## *What hasn't worked as well:*

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Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter

- Outside project personnel assisting/owning the process - no ownership
- Keeping OMs engaged and keeping their risks moving & updated (being as proactive as we should)
- Mixing Problems & Risk Management
- Management's desire to attach reserves to every item on the risk list

# *If I had it to start over...*

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Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter

- Start with one project master risk list
- More closely tie margins management to the risk process
- Have someone dedicated to the RM process from the beginning
- Forego the elaborate tools
- Sensitize project elements that putting items on the risk list is not a bad thing



# *Final Remarks*

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Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter

- Risk Management provided a structured means for MRO management and project elements to communicate about risks and mitigation strategies
- MRO received Risk Management action items from NASA IRT at PMSR and PDR. At CDR the MRO RM process was praised
- MRO was launched successfully and is meeting all of its operational objectives